



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 10, 2006
Week Ending: October 8, 2006
CWP WA-CW4106

Temperatures Continued to Decline Winter Wheat Over 50 Percent Emerged

There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Winter wheat seeding continued and emerged nicely. Although winter wheat was in mostly fair to good condition, some producers in Whitman County were holding off winter wheat plantings until some moisture is received. Christmas tree producers were busy preparing harvest roads and taking inventory for this year's sales. Potato, corn for grain, and corn silage harvest continued. A fire burned a hop warehouse in Yakima destroying about 10,000 bales of hops.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions decreased to 15% very poor, 10% poor, 28% fair and 47% good. Livestock have winter coats and are being supplemental fed hay and grain. Cattlemen were weaning their calves and selling their calves.

Fruit and Vegetables

Cranberry harvest began while grape, apple, broccoli, sweet corn, and pumpkin harvest continued. Cauliflower and beet seed harvest finished up.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	33	52	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	38	45	1
Subsoil	8	32	60	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	44	41	0
Irrigation Water	2	4	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	7	89	0
Hay & Roughage	1	21	74	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	85	73	78	83
Winter Wheat Emerged	58	44	43	58
Potatoes Harvested	76	68	74	72
Corn Dented	97	95	100	100
Corn Mature	88	63	93	87
Corn Harvested	53	33	37	18
Corn Silage Harvested	66	60	63	67
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	95	92	92	80

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	11	49	35	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	85	0
Corn	0	0	20	78	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Farmers were still cutting corn for silage. Some farmers were on their sixth cutting of grass! The weather was sunny and dry.

Clark: Home and Garden shows, Pumpkin Festivals, and Harvest Celebration tours of local farms began.

Grays Harbor: Silage corn growers continued harvesting under nearly ideal conditions. Sweet corn harvest is scheduled to begin next week. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent sales. Christmas tree growers were busy preparing harvest roads and taking inventory of trees for this year's sales. Greenhouse tomato growers harvested the last of their crop for the year. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure on forage fields.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Another week of warm, dry weather helped the sweet corn to mature. Much of the late planted crop still needs to be harvested.

Mason: Daytime temperatures in the 70's maintained plant growth beyond expectations. Tomato plants were still producing, and below normal rainfall held off late blight another week. Local Farmer's Markets have closed, but CSA members were still getting bountiful shares of the late harvest. U-Pick pumpkin patches were open for business, and Christmas tree growers were buckling down for the home stretch. Brush pickers were in full swing, with truckloads of evergreens headed down local roads towards warehouses.

Mason (2nd Report): Cooler temperatures were reported, along with 0.2 of an inch of precipitation. There was a feeling of autumn in the air. Pastures were starting to re-grow slowly, but soil moisture was still low.

Pacific: Cooler fall weather provided much needed moisture with light rain for the soil. Cranberry growers initiated harvest operations with fair yields and quality. Oyster growers were already in full harvest and processing mode, with stronger than usual market conditions due to lost production around the country. Christmas tree growers completed final preparations for harvest. Pasture conditions were slowly improving with the cooler weather.

Pierce/South King: It was nice to see the rain. Crop conditions continued to remain good for the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been mild with cool nights. Harvesting of crops continued. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions over the past few weeks.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 57 degrees, and there was 0.2 of an inch of rain recorded in west Mount Vernon. Potato, broccoli, corn, and pumpkin harvest was still underway. Cauliflower and beet seed harvest was complete. This year's potato crop was being dug and placed in storage. The potatoes coming in from the field get separated from the dirt and placed into piles typically 14 feet high. They are then chilled to about 38 degrees and have air blown up from the bottom of the pile to reduce rot. The potatoes are 'hogged out' with a conveyor belt that gently scoops them up to be run through a warehouse and are then graded and sorted according to size. Next year's tulip, daffodil, and wheat fields were being planted. With all of the farm machinery running around the valley please be cautious, especially during foggy fall mornings.

Skamania: Chantrelles were appearing and being harvested.

Snohomish/King: Silage corn harvest continued. Some potatoes were being dug. Pastures looked better, but moisture in the soil was only down to about 3 inches. Moisture was not getting to the taproot zones for most pasture plants. Seasonal rains should be coming in a couple of weeks. Some green chopping continued in sub-irrigated fields. Apple harvest was underway, and pumpkin harvest was in full swing.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): The weather continued to be sunny with cooler temperatures in the 60's. Farmers were still working in the fields harvesting crops.

Thurston: Sunny weather during the majority of the week provided ideal conditions for ag producers to continue with outside activities. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating and seeding fields. U-Pick pumpkin growers reported good sales for this early in the month. Christmas tree growers reported increased activity with wholesale buyers securing inventories for retail lots. Livestock producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Blueberry growers mowed cover crops in established fields.

Thurston (2nd Report): Cattle have been on hay since mid-August. Drought conditions will probably last until the end of the month. By that time, it will be too cold for the grass to grow.

Whatcom: Temperatures dropped 4 degrees below average for the week, with no measurable precipitation. Cool temperatures helped to bring moisture upward toward the soil profile. Corn chopping was in high gear as potato harvest wound down.

Central

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was still about 50 percent complete.

Kittitas: The first heavy fall rains came, ruining a fair amount of late second cutting of timothy hay. The rain was welcome on pastures. Cattle on higher elevation forested range were beginning to come home. Producers prepared to wean and sell calves.

Okanogan/Ferry: The third cutting of alfalfa was complete. Cattle were being moved to fall pastures, and cattlemen were beginning to wean and sell calves. Apple harvest was still progressing.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 1 degree below normal to 6 degrees above normal, with 0.02 of an inch of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat was emerged and in mostly good to fair condition. Weed pressure has been low as a lack of precipitation has limited downy brome germination.

Adams (2nd Report): Another week of nice, sunny weather allowed final hay cutters to complete drying. Apples were picked. Winter wheat had nice emergence.

Asotin/Garfield: Winter wheat planting continued. Conditions were dry.

Ferry: Dry conditions continued.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding was complete except for re-crop winter wheat. Overall, the winter wheat was in mostly good to fair condition and was mostly weed free.

Lincoln (2nd Report): A rain shower was received during the week, which benefited fall pastures as well as winter wheat. More precipitation was needed.

Pend Oreille: Livestock had their winter coats and were being fed hay and grain supplements due to the poor pasture conditions. Fowl have completed molting and were off laying. Hogs were eating all day and fattening up for market. Freezing nighttime temperatures caused water troughs to ice over.

Stevens: Seeding and haying were completed for the year. Calves continued to move to market. Attention turned to fall chores such as checking antifreeze and putting away equipment.

Walla Walla: Weather conditions included cooler temperatures, dew in the mornings, and light frost the last couple of evenings of the week. Winter crops were mostly planted and some have emerged. Burnt areas from the Columbia Complex fire were starting to green up.

Whitman: Winter wheat seeding continued with dry conditions. Producers were hopeful for rain. Some operations were holding off on seeding to wait for precipitation.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 9, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	35	66	51	-3	17	-6	0	0	0.07	-0.55	3	1.64	-1.00	62	11
Everett	45	66	54	0	27	1	0	0	0.09	-0.47	3	1.60	-1.19	57	12
Hoquiam	42	69	54	-3	33	-12	0	-6	0.33	-0.75	2	1.44	-3.03	32	9
Kelso	41	72	55	-2	34	-4	0	-4	0.12	-0.55	2	1.61	-1.52	51	9
Olympia	36	73	53	1	22	-1	0	0	0.15	-0.56	2	0.84	-2.22	27	9
Sea-Tac	45	71	55	-1	39	1	1	-1	0.02	-0.54	1	1.45	-1.06	58	9
Shelton	35	71	53	-2	25	-9	0	-3	0.14	-0.75	3	1.82	-1.87	49	10
Tacoma	39	72	53	-2	25	-7	0	0	0.27	-0.29	2	0.98	-1.58	38	6
Vancouver	46	70	56	2	47	11	0	-3	0.11	-0.45	3	0.74	-1.91	28	10
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	40	73	57	7	54	34	4	2	0.07	0.00	2	0.14	-0.44	24	5
Stampede Pass	38	67	48	5	10	4	0	0	0.03	-1.04	1	2.25	-2.39	48	10
Wenatchee	44	71	58	3	55	17	1	-7	0.13	0.06	2	0.17	-0.31	35	3
Yakima AP	36	71	54	1	31	1	0	-5	0.02	-0.05	2	0.57	0.09	119	3
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	70	53	4	24	8	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.46	-0.91	34	5
Deer Park	27	72	50	-2	13	-8	0	-3	0.03	-0.14	1	0.54	-0.53	50	5
Spokane AP	40	68	54	2	28	6	0	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	0.32	-0.57	36	3
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	41	73	57	1	54	12	5	-5	0.03	-0.04	1	0.45	0.01	102	6
Moses Lake	36	74	56	-1	46	4	4	-6	0.07	0.00	3	0.32	-0.12	73	7
Quincy	42	70	58	4	56	23	3	-3	0.01	-0.06	1	0.16	-0.35	31	4
Ritzville	38	69	53	1	26	0	0	-4	0.10	-0.04	2	0.26	-0.46	36	4
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	42	74	57	-3	53	-11	2	-15	0.13	0.06	1	0.33	-0.10	77	6
Pasco	38	73	55	-3	36	-11	0	-9	0.07	0.00	3	0.43	-0.01	98	7
Pullman	31	70	51	-2	13	-11	0	-2	0.01	-0.23	1	0.64	-0.63	50	4
Whitman Miss.	34	75	55	1	35	2	0	-5	0.04	-0.15	1	0.70	-0.19	79	6
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	70	54	1	31	2	0	-4	0.01	-0.27	1	0.29	-1.22	19	3
Lewiston ID	40	74	59	3	64	17	2	-8	0.02	-0.17	1	0.69	-0.30	70	6

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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